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UA9 Spirit of Giving

WKU Institutional Advancement

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John and Linda Kelly

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Lifelong History Buff Named Richard Frockt Family Professor of Civil War Studies



For as long as he can remember, Dr. Glenn LaFantasie has loved history and studying the past – a love that was instilled and nurtured by his parents, who took him to visit a plethora of Civil War battlefields on numerous day trips in New England and summer vacations throughout the South. Today LaFantasie has come full circle and is living out his dream by serving at Western Kentucky University as the first the *Richard Frockt Family Professor of Civil War Studies* and director of WKU's Center for the

Study of Civil War in the West.

LaFantasie recalls a defining moment of his childhood. "My first visit to Gettysburg was memorable and mesmerizing," he said. "Of any of the battlefields I visited as a child, Gettysburg and all its human interest stories fired my interest and made me want to learn more about the Civil War and its historical participants. I became curious not only about the generals and the soldiers who fought there, but also about Abraham Lincoln, his presidency, and his eloquent Gettysburg Address.

Continued on Pg. 4



Thomas S. Hiles,
Vice President for
Institutional Advancement

Dear Friend of WKU,

We are pleased to present you with this copy of the *Spirit of Giving*. This piece highlights new and recent gifts to the University as well as gifts "in action" that were made through the *Investing in the Spirit* Campaign. Your support is making a real and lasting difference to our campus.

As I write, WKU is wrapping up its yearlong Centennial Celebration. It has truly been a remarkable year and a time to look back and reflect upon the great history that is WKU. We celebrated a number of fund-raising milestones this year as well.

Giving highlights for 2005-2006 include:

- WKU received an unprecedented \$14.5 million in private support from 18,913 donors during the 2005-2006 fiscal year. This represented a 10 percent increase over what was raised last year.
- A total of 1,294 young alumni donors WKU achieved a nine percent participation of giving among young alumni--a number that was more than a percentage point higher than its nearest challenger.
- WKU's combined endowment grew by 14 percent to reach a record \$86 million.
- A new record was also set with WKU's President's Circle membership with 2,036 donors contributing \$1,000 or more to the institution -- a 12 percent increase over last year's President's Circle numbers.

These numbers are a reflection of your continued loyal support. I look forward to the great things we will do together as Western Kentucky University enters its second century. Thank you again for continued support and friendship.

Kindest regards,

Thomas S. Hiles

Thomas S. Hiles

Prestons Named WKU's National Philanthropists of the Year

Raymond and Hattie Preston and the Preston Family Foundation were recently honored by Western Kentucky University as part of National Philanthropy Day. This award was presented during a recognition luncheon in Lexington.

National Philanthropy Day allows WKU to pay tribute to the contributions that philanthropy has made in our personal lives, our local communities, and our nation. This nationwide celebration allows WKU to recognize those of who have given freely of themselves to enrich the lives of others and enhance the quality of life in our community.

As founder and President of PB&S Chemical Company, and as head of Ohio Valley Bancorp, among many noteworthy ventures, Raymond focused on making the world around him a better place. In 1989, he and Hattie demonstrated this generous spirit by establishing the Preston Family Foundation.

At WKU, the Health and Activities Center, the Intramural Sports Complex, a Student Computer Lab, and the Acquired Brain Injury Program at the Clinical Education Complex bear their names. They are also charter members of Spirit of Western, an honor given to donors of \$1 million or more.

Those benefiting from the Prestons' generosity in Henderson include: Henderson Community College, Friends of Audubon, Henderson Area Arts Alliance, Henderson County Schools' Project 21, Henderson County Family YMCA, the Wellspring Academy, and St. Anthony's Hospice.

Past recipients of the WKU Philanthropist of the Year are: Jerry Baker, Gordon Ford, Lowell Guthrie, Bud Layne, Leon Page, and Don Vitale.



Raymond and Hattie Preston

Celebrating Scholarship Support

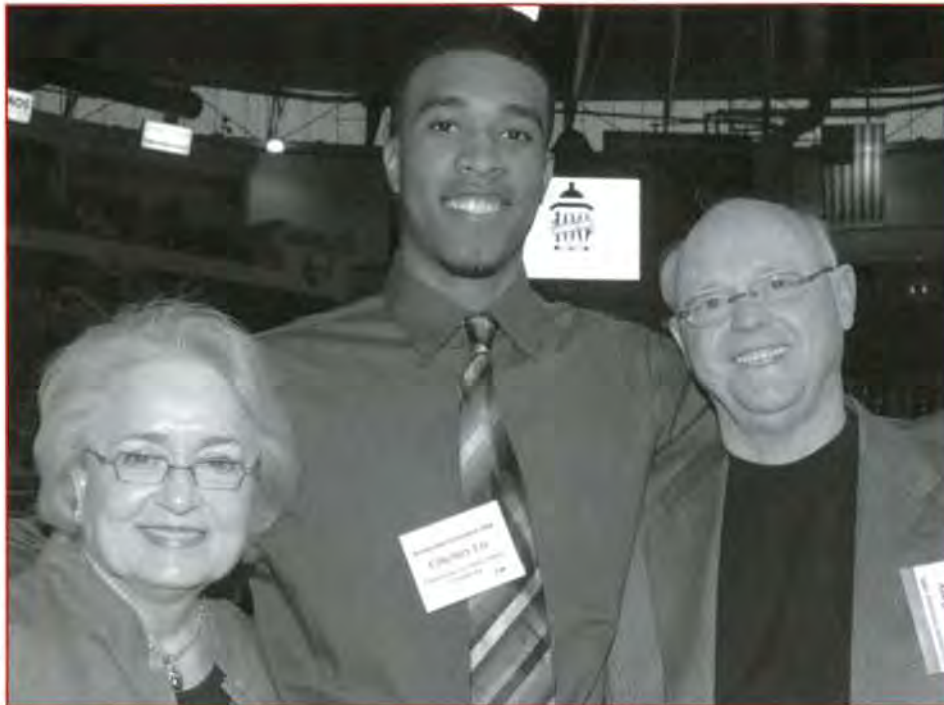


Photo by Jim Vozzy

Courtney Lee (center) poses with Nelda and Vernon Gary at the Scholarship Celebration event. Lee is the recipient of the Elmond Gary and Family Athletic Scholarship.

Bringing together scholarship donors and student recipients is the goal of the Scholarship Celebration event. The sixth annual Scholarship Celebration event was held on September 28. At the event, endowed scholarship donors meet their scholarship recipient.

"The Scholarship Celebration event is the largest stewardship event on our campus," said Tom Hiles, WKU's vice president for Institutional Advancement. "Our intention is to show scholarship donors first hand how their gifts are benefiting students."

Nearly 450 donors and students filled Diddle Arena main floor for this year's event. One hundred and forty scholarships were represented at the event, which is hosted by the Office of the President, WKU Foundation, and College Heights Foundation.

Kevin Mays, Community Bank President of National City in Bowling Green, believes the Scholarship Celebration event is good way to meet his scholarship recipients. "It is the best

way to see the cumulative effect of what we do for our student recipients," he explained. "It's an opportunity for us to personally interact with the students and realize how grateful they truly are."

National City supports the *J. Lewie Harman Educational Scholarship*, the *J. W. Potter Educational Scholarships*, and

the *National City Bank Scholarship Fund*.

Lacy Sherrer, a junior from Louisville and recipient of the *James M. Beckley Campus Ministries Scholarship*, was one of the student recipients at the event who met her donor representatives, Jim and Amy Beckley. "It was really amazing to meet the people whose generosity has made my education possible," she said. "I was overwhelmed with gratitude and blessed to meet people as kind as the Beckleys."

The Scholarship Celebration event allows the donor and student to meet--many for the first time--and learn more about each other. Students have the opportunity to express their gratitude and learn more about why their scholarship was created.

"Having this scholarship has given me the ability to work less and focus on the things that really mater to me like ministry," said Sherrer.

"I am always amazed at the great plans so many of these students already possess at such a young age," Mayes said. "To hear how these people have a desire to change the world encourages me."



Photo by Jim Vozzy

Donors Jim and Amy Beckley are pictured with Lacy Sherrer (right), the recipient of the James M. Beckley Campus Ministries Scholarship.

Continued from Pg. 1 • Lifelong History Buff Named Richard Frockt Family Professor of Civil War Studies



Dr. Glenn LaFantasie (center) with his daughter M. Sarah LaFantasie (left), and wife Donna A. LaFantasie (right)

For me, Civil War figures, like Lincoln, Robert E. Lee, and Ulysses S. Grant, became my heroes, just as some boys might admire sports figures, astronauts, or action stars in movies or on television."

The *Frockt Family Professorship* was created in 2003 through a gift from Dick Frockt, a Las Vegas, Nev., alumnus; his wife, Janet; and his son, Ryan. Part of the *Investing in the Spirit* Campaign, the Frockts' \$500,000 gift was matched by the Commonwealth of Kentucky's Regional University Trust Fund to provide a \$1 million endowment for the professorship. LaFantasie said his work as the *Frockt Professor* will focus on providing WKU students with an education that will enable them to understand the past as something not remote and incomprehensible, but as something that lives on and shapes our world and our lives.

"The Civil War era was not only an important period in this nation's history; it also had an impact, good and bad, on world history, particularly in the rise of what military analysts call 'modern' or 'total' war," he explained. "The Civil War also left this nation a burden of responsibility to try to fulfill Lincoln's call

in his Gettysburg Address for a 'new birth of freedom' and to achieve one of this country's highest ideals—the promise that 'all men are created equal.' I hope in my own humble way that my scholarship will help to bring positive attention to WKU as a leading American university, particularly since I strive to write works that reach a broader readership beyond the borders of academia itself."

LaFantasie said he is also fascinated with how the American Civil War attracts the interest of people in other lands, particularly in Great Britain, France, Germany, and Russia. "There is a vast opportunity, which American scholars have so far failed to tap, in reaching out to people in other nations who wish to learn more about the American Civil War," he said. "Comparative studies have been few in the field of Civil War studies, but our terrible war cries out for scholarly analysis within the context of internecine conflicts around the globe."

Closer to home, LaFantasie plans to be as accessible to the community as he possibly can, offering his services to local groups as a speaker, helping officials in the area to plan Civil War commemorations—including the bicentennial celebrations of Abraham Lincoln's birthday

in 2009—and raising the awareness of local residents in the important part Bowling Green played in the Civil War.

Bowling Green's role in the Civil War makes WKU an ideal location for the future Center for the Study of the Civil War in the West. The Center goals are to raise WKU's profile in an important area of scholarship, build stronger ties with area schools, enhance the History Department's graduate program, and generate income for the University's academic mission through seminars, institutes, and summer workshops. "The purpose of the Center will be to stimulate scholarly and public interest in the Western Theater—that area, generally speaking, that lies west of the Appalachian Mountains—of the Civil War in all its aspects, including military, social, political, economic, and religious," LaFantasie explained. "Drawing on expertise from WKU's academic departments, the Center will take an interdisciplinary approach to exploring the Civil War in the West. It will explore various topics of scholarly and local interest, including not only military subjects but also facets of the Civil War era that deal with African Americans, women, and the home front."

The Center, LaFantasie said, is fortunate to have at its disposal the extensive holdings of the Helm-Cravens Library and the superb collections of the Kentucky Library and Museum. As one of its first projects, the Center is laying plans to launch a web site that will feature information about the Center for the Study of the Civil War in the West. It will also offer links to other Civil War and Lincoln web pages and will provide access to three important Civil War veteran primary printed sources in a keyword searchable format: *Southern Historical Society Papers* (52 vols., 1876-1959), *Confederate Veteran* (43 volumes, 1893-1934), and all the various state volumes comprising the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States (MOLLUS) series (66 volumes, 1878-1933).

"The Center will also work with WKU's Division of Extended Learning and Outreach to host a variety of summer workshops and institutes," he explained. "Some of these programs will be weekend events designed to give WKU alumni an opportunity to revisit campus and pursue their interests in the Civil War."

The Center is also exploring the possibility of hosting week-long workshops for secondary school teachers that would focus on creating teaching modules for classroom use. "Another potential audience for summer programs is the retired military personnel who now live in the Fort Campbell and Fort Knox-Elizabethtown area," LaFantasie said. "In time, the Center for the Study of the Civil War in the West also hopes to sponsor tours—which will feature nationally known historical experts as guides—of nearby Civil War battlefields and sites, including Bowling Green's Civil War defenses, Forts Henry and Donelson, Perryville, Munfordville, Shiloh, and the important Lincoln sites in Kentucky, Indiana, and Illinois. Out of these various programs and activities, the Center also plans to develop a publication program that will bring into print significant scholarly and popular works on the Civil War in the West, including monographs, festschrifts, and commemoration volumes."

LaFantasie also hopes to partner with the Ohio Valley History Conference to sponsor sessions on the Civil War in the West. In addition, the Center will work with the local community to promote historic tourism, develop historical celebrations, and enrich public school curricula and programs. Toward that end, LaFantasie said the Center has already begun an educational partnership with the Battle of the Bridge Preserve in Munfordville.

These may sound like high hopes for a man who has only been at WKU since August of this year, but this is not the first time Glenn LaFantasie has reached for his dreams. Teaching is

actually his second career. At age 55, LaFantasie returned to Brown University to finish his Ph.D. in history, although he had already enjoyed a 30-year "alternative" career in the field of public history and as a writer specializing in the American Civil War. He has written about his experiences for *The Chronicle of Higher Education* in two first-person pieces: "The Oldest Living TA Tells All" and "Oldest Living TA Turns Professor."

LaFantasie received his Ph.D. in history from Brown, a degree he had begun 25 years earlier, in May 2005. Having presented numerous special lectures and papers and written a plethora articles, he is also the author of *Twilight at Little Round Top* (Wiley, 2005), *Gettysburg Requiem: The Life of William C. Oates* (Oxford University Press, 2006), and a collection of previously published essays entitled *Perfect Heroes: Gettysburg and Its Many Meanings* (to be published by Indiana University Press). He is currently writing a book entitled *Lincoln and Grant:*

The Partnership that Won the Civil War.

"I am much honored and very pleased to have been chosen as the first *Richard Frockt Family Professor of Civil War History* at WKU," he said. "The prestige of this professorship comes from the institution with which it is affiliated—Western Kentucky University—and from the wonderful record of scholarship that WKU has already achieved. I am very grateful to Richard and Janet Frockt for their commitment to WKU, which made this endowed chair possible."

But LaFantasie said the real prestige of the professorship is something he will have to build and earn. "It is on my shoulders to make sure that the *Richard Frockt Family Professorship* becomes a mark of quality scholarship and a name that Civil War scholars, students, and enthusiasts will come to recognize and honor," he said. "I will do my best to bring the best possible public attention to the *Richard Frockt Family Professorship* and to Western Kentucky University."



Dr. Glenn LaFantasie and Dick Frockt.

Special Needs Trust Commits \$750,000 for Clinical Education Complex



Leo Govoni

"Excuse me. It sounds like you need money, and I have funds."

These were the first words Suzanne Vitale heard from Leo Govoni, director of the Center for Special Needs Trust Administration in Clearwater, FL. In January 2006, Vitale, a volunteer who has spearheaded the development of the Clinical Education Complex at Western Kentucky University, was attending the fourth annual International Conference on Education in Honolulu, HI. Always one to advocate for the CEC, she struck up a conversation with a fellow passenger in an elevator. Somewhere between the 24th and 14th floors, Govoni overheard the conversation, and the rest, as they say, is history.

Seven months later, the CEC announced a \$750,000 commitment from the Center for Special Needs Trust Administration. According to Tom Hiles, WKU's vice president for Institutional Advancement, this commitment includes \$500,000 toward the completion of the CEC and \$250,000 in support of an endowment for the Kelly Autism Program, which is housed within the CEC. "The CEC, which officially

opened its doors in August, is an interdisciplinary and collaborative project that will create a comprehensive clinical setting for education and health and human services professionals," Hiles explained. "It builds upon a strong tradition at Western Kentucky University to meet local community needs, fill service delivery gaps, provide opportunities for applied research, and enrich both undergraduate and graduate students' educational experiences through an interdisciplinary team approach."

The CEC building, located at a former business complex on 14th and Adams streets, will serve as an important extension of WKU. In addition to the Kelly Autism Program, it will house the Acquired Brain Injury Resource, the Communication Disorders Clinic, the Early Childhood Center, the Family Counseling Clinic, and the Family Resource Center.

Hiles said the Kelly Autism Program (KAP) is a vital part of the CEC. "The KAP has a goal to help young people with autism effectively transition to a purposeful, fulfilling life after their public school years are over," he explained.

"Individualized programs for these young people strive to increase interactive social skills, community participation, opportunities for recreation and leisure activity, therapeutic vocational skills, and access to meaningful interpersonal relationships, all for the purpose of enhancing their overall quality of life beyond the final years of public school."

Govoni said the CEC and the KAP directly support the Center for Special Needs Trust Administration's philanthropic objectives. "The Center provides trust services for individuals through special needs trusts," he explained. "When an individual passes on, the non-profit retains the funds. We use those funds to help organizations that provide real, grassroots services to their communities."

After Govoni explained the Center's functions to Vitale during their elevator ride, he left her with his card. It did not take long for her to get back in touch with him. She traveled to Clearwater to meet with him, and he later made a trip to Bowling Green to learn more about the CEC, and to meet faculty and staff who will be providing services to the five parts of the CEC as well as members of the Bowling Green community who have been active in raising the funds to



Suzanne Vitale

make this facility a reality. Ms. Vitale and John Kelly, whose volunteer and financial support were instrumental in launching the Kelly Autism Program, met with Mr. Govoni to discuss the programs in more detail. Hiles praised Suzanne Vitale, John Kelly, and Leo Govoni for their volunteer and financial support and for their assistance in securing this gift.

"After a tightly scheduled series of meetings, Mr. Govoni said he 'spent a week in Bowling Green one day,'" Suzanne said with a laugh. "His special interest is in the young people who will be helped through the Kelly Autism Program. His generosity will make possible the completion of critically needed space in the new CEC building, and will add to the endowment for the future support of the program."

Mary Lloyd Moore, director of the Clinical Education Complex, added her appreciation for Govoni and the Center for Special Needs Trust Administration. "This gift will certainly make a huge impact both the service delivery offered at the Kelly Autism Program and the range and amount of services offered," she said. "This gift

will not only have an effect on the Kelly Autism Program but also on all programs offered at the Clinical Education Complex. We are most grateful for his vision and generosity."

Govoni calls the CEC a model that can be used around the country to help young people after they are past their secondary education and their interaction with their local school systems. "I have never seen a program like this one," he said. "Once we saw how special it really was, we knew we needed to get behind it. We are truly excited to be a part of it all."



Leo Govoni plays with Philip Proctor, grandson of CEC Charter Committee Chair Suzanne Vitale.

Bowling Green Couple Provides Lasting Support for Kelly Autism Program

Four years ago John and Linda Kelly of Bowling Green made a gift of \$150,000 to provide initial, three-year funding for the *Kelly Autism Program* (KAP) at WKU. The couple, whose daughter has autism, had a vision for a program that would provide instruction, intervention, and support opportunities to children and young adults with autism spectrum disorders as well as their families. The Kellys continued this support in 2004, when they made an additional gift of \$100,000 to continue funding for the program for two more years.

Now the Kellys have made a new commitment of \$250,000 to create a permanent endowment in support of the KAP, which will provide lasting support for the program for years to come. According to Tom Hiles, WKU's vice president for Institutional Advancement, the KAP, which is a part of the new Clinical Education Complex at WKU, has a goal to help young people with autism effectively transition to a purposeful, fulfilling life after their public school years are over. "Individualized programs for these young people strive to increase interactive social skills, community participation, opportunities for recreation and leisure activity, therapeutic vocational skills, and access

to meaningful interpersonal relationships, all for the purpose of enhancing their overall quality of life beyond the final years of public school."

"The completion for the CEC building provides KAP with the physical resources to operate and expand its services," John Kelly said. "The ability for KAP to meet and exceed its goals in the community will be a function of our success in providing stable long-term funding for the program through the development of an endowment. Our family is honored to partner with WKU in this endeavor. It is a program that is very near and dear to our hearts."

Marty Boman, director of the Kelly Autism Program, said the endowment commitment from the Kellys will guarantee that the program will continue to have an impact on individuals diagnosed with autism for many years to come, and it will allow for further expansion in Kentucky and beyond. "The vision of John and Linda has provided the KAP participants and their families hope for the future and dreams of independence," she said. "Goals that were never viewed as possible have become reality here in Bowling Green and across the nation."



and Leo Govoni

The Society of 1906

Are you a Society Member?

WKU's centennial year (2006) marks the final opportunity for charter membership in the Society of 1906.

The Society of 1906 is the recognition society for individuals who make Western Kentucky University a part of their estate plan by including a bequest to the University, by participating in

any of the various lifetime income plans the University has available, or by designating the University as beneficiary of a trust, retirement plan assets, or insurance policies of which ownership has been assigned to the University.

Charter members will be designated as such and their names will be displayed prominently in all donor listings. Membership in *The Society of 1906* will

be permanent, continuing year to year throughout the member's lifetime as long as the bequest or other planned gift remains in effect.

If WKU is part of your estate plan, please let us know. If you have been thinking of including WKU in your estate plans or need further assistance, we would like to hear from you.



President Gary Ransdell recognizes Shelby Forsythe as a Legacy Circle member at the 2005 Society of 1906 recognition dinner. Mr. Forsythe passed away in April 2006.

From the WKU Office of Planned Giving: New IRA Rules Encourage Philanthropy

Tax-free distributions from IRAs for charitable purposes.

The Act permits taxpayers who have reached age 70-1/2, to exclude from gross income certain distributions of up to \$100,000 from a traditional individual retirement account (IRA) or Roth IRA which would otherwise be included in income. The charitable distribution must be made to a tax-exempt organization to which deductible contributions can be made. The change is effective for 2006 through 2007.

Thus, distributions from an IRA donated to a charitable organization, like WKU, may be tax-free up to \$100,000 per year, for both 2006 and 2007. A qualified charitable distribution must be made *directly by the IRA trustee* to a charitable organization. Thus, a distribution made to an indi-

vidual, and then rolled over to a charitable organization, would not be excludible from gross income.

Interaction with required minimum distribution rules.

For purposes of the required minimum distribution (RMD) rules as they apply to traditional IRAs, qualified charitable distributions may be taken into account to the same extent the distribution *would* have been taken into account under the RMD rules had the distribution *not* been directly distributed under the IRA qualified charitable distribution rules.

Thus, an IRA owner who makes an IRA qualified charitable distribution in an amount equal to his RMD for that tax year is considered to have satisfied his Code Sec. 408(a)(6) minimum distribution requirement for that year,

even though a charitable entity (and not the IRA owner) is the recipient of the distribution.

For IRA owners who don't *need* to take distributions from their IRAs (e.g., because of a comfortable financial situation), but who are *required* to take distributions under the RMD rules, the qualified charitable distribution rules allow them to satisfy the RMD rules without having to incur a tax liability, at least up to \$100,000 distributed to charity for each of 2006 and 2007.

Note: This is simply a brief summary of the new rules. Please consult your tax advisor if you think you would like to take advantage of these rules when considering your contribution to WKU.

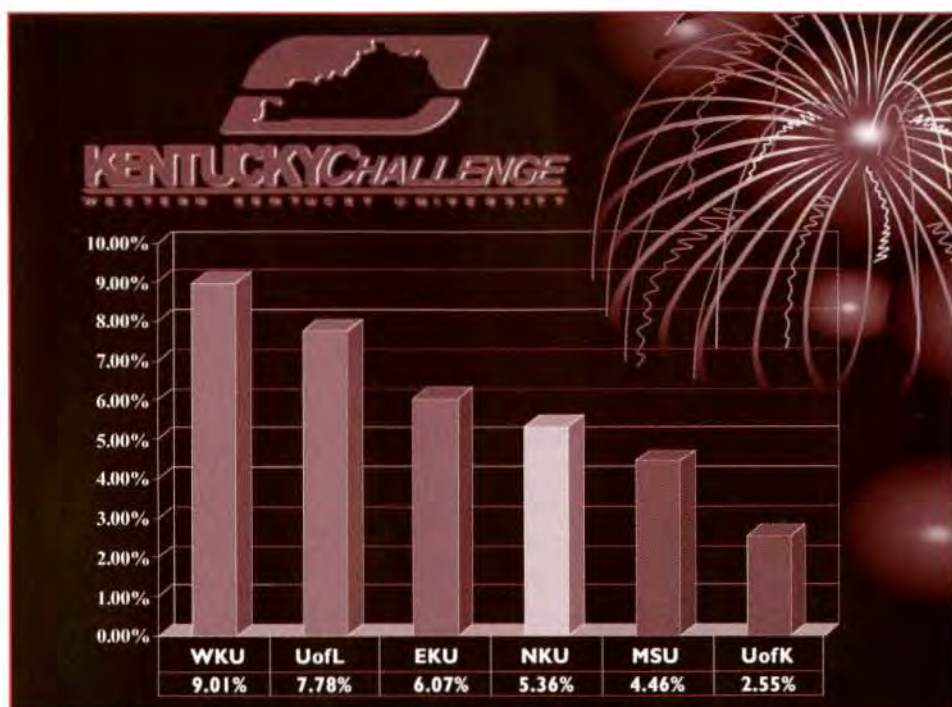
Our thanks to Ann M. Puckett, Partner with BKD, LLP, for writing this article.

WKU Wins Again!

The Kentucky Challenge is a friendly competition among public universities in Kentucky to see which institution will garner the largest percentage of donors from graduates of the last decade. The 2004-05 school year saw WKU alumni step up and win the inaugural Kentucky Challenge. During 2005-06, alumni continued their support, and WKU earned a second consecutive title.

The Kentucky Challenge began as another way for institutions to focus on the giving habits of young alumni. WKU uses this forum to emphasize the importance of participation. Since participation is not predicated by the size of the gift, alumni can begin to understand the value of simply making a gift. Gifts of all sizes create an amazing array of opportunities at WKU.

The Challenge is on for 2006-07. With the help of graduates of the last



decade, WKU is striving for a threepeat as champions. Furthermore, WKU is looking to all alumni to continue to move the University up in national participation rankings. Among public, masters degree granting institutions, WKU is in the top 10 with a rate

of 16.53% from all alumni. All gifts truly make a difference, and private support continues to become more valuable as WKU charts a course as a leading American university with international reach.



Sue Borders

Cupola Society Spotlight on Sue Borders

Sue Borders has now been a donor to WKU for 42 consecutive years. While the number in and of itself is impressive, it is the caring relationship Sue has nurtured that has caused the number to continue to grow. Sue Borders has many memories and continuing connections with the Hill – an education at College High, two children and four grandchildren who all attended WKU, and 15 years of employment with WKU in a job she was initially surprised to be offered.

While Sue is not a graduate of WKU, she is a prime example of the WKU Family stretching its arms to a broad audience of alumni and friends who impact the lives of many. Speaking about WKU, she says, "I feel indebted. WKU gave me a chance and

I made so many friends. WKU is so important; it has meant so much to Bowling Green, my family, and me personally, and I know that gifts do make a difference."

Still active with and interested in WKU, Sue Borders is an example of involvement and support to which all members of the WKU Family should aspire.



Important Scholarship Funds Marks 20 Years of Assisting Students

In 1986, through the efforts of National City Bank, trusts that had been established through bequests by J. L. Harman and J. W. Potter, began providing assistance and encouragement to students pursuing their education at Western Kentucky University. Mr. Harman and Mr. Potter were out-



J.L. Harman

standing members of the Bowling Green community who shared a strong belief in the importance of education. Through a partnership with National City Bank, this year marks the 20th year that the Potter and Harman awards have been made to deserving students attending Western Kentucky

University. Over 2,700 awards have been made totaling more than \$1,700,000.

Tyler Graham, a sophomore recreation major, is one of the recipients of the *J.W. Potter Scholarship* this year. "The scholarship has helped me pay for school," he said. "It is an honor to receive a scholarship like this, and I appreciate the support."

Julian W. Potter, who died in 1926, was a Bowling Green native who served as vice president of American National Bank before he moved to New York City, where he continued his career in banking and finance. He was a member of the Board of Directors for the College Heights Foundation. J.L.

Harman, who died in 1972, was a director of American National Bank and a former owner of Bowling Green Business University (BU), the predecessor of WKU's Gordon Ford College of Business. He also taught at B.U. for 17 years and was part owner of Capitol Aluminum Manufacturing Company and Leichhardt Hillview Nursery.

Upon their deaths, both Potter and Harman established scholarship funds to benefit students. These funds are managed by in accordance with the established guidelines. The *J.L. Harman Educational Trust* and the *J. W. Potter Educational Trust* provide scholarship

awards to deserving Kentuckians, and the *Potter Theological Endowed Scholarship Award* provides financial assistance to theology students who are residents of Kentucky.

Alex Downing, president of the College Heights Foundation, has been instrumental in coordinating these scholarship awards. "The Potter and

Harman Scholarship Funds have been tremendous sources of assistance and encouragement for deserving students," he said. We are grateful to Mr. Harman and Mr. Potter for creating these trusts and to National City in their efforts in providing administration."



J.W. Potter



Mark Gomez (center) poses with some of the recipients of the J.W. Potter Educational Scholarship and the National City Bank Scholarship at the Scholarship Celebration event.



National City Bank Community Bank President Kevin Mays poses with some of the recipients of the J. Lewie Harman Educational Scholarship at the Scholarship Celebration event.

Student Publications Building Made Possible Through Grassroots Alumni Campaign



Architectural rendering of Student Publications Building

Western Kentucky University recently broke ground on a new Student Publications Building, a grassroots effort that was funded almost entirely through individual contributions from alumni who wrote for the *College Heights Herald* student newspaper and the *Talisman* yearbook.

"This is a historically significant project in that it is the first 100 percent privately financed building on WKU's campus since the Kentucky Building was built in the 1930s," said Tom Hiles, WKU's vice president for Institutional Advancement.

According to Hiles, the Student Publications Center will be a \$1 million, state-of-the-art facility located on Normal Avenue across from the new Mass Media and Technology Hall. "To date 136 contributors have raised a total of \$903,128," he said. "This has been a largely grassroots effort in which working journalists have made sacrificial gifts to honor their alma mater."

Bob Adams, WKU's director of Student Publications, said the new facility will be constructed to be the newsroom of the future for the *Herald*, wkuherald.com, and the *Talisman*. "The *Herald* and *Talisman* are considering some cooperative ventures and the *Herald* plans to expand its online operation and have the capability to integrate whatever media are necessary to remain as the primary information source for WKU students, faculty, staff and administration."

In 2003, the School of Journalism and Broadcasting moved to a new, state-

of-the-art Mass Media and Technology Hall to the bottom of the campus "Hill." The *Herald* and *Talisman* and the office of Student Publications stayed in the Garrett Center on top of the Hill. "Because it's all uphill from MMTH there has been limited interaction with faculty members and with prospective students and their families," Adams explained.

"WKU is one of the top journalism schools in the country, and it is truly fitting that it will now have a state-of-the-art Mass Media and Technology Hall and an impressive facility to house its Student Publications," Hiles said. "We are indeed grateful to the many alumni and friends who made this project possible."

David T. Whitaker, a 1981 alumnus who made a leadership gift to the project, majored in Journalism and worked for both the *Herald* and the *Talisman*. "The *Herald* and *Talisman*, to me, are the centerpieces of the Journalism program," he explained. "The *Herald* was like my fraternity when I was at Western. I thought it was important that the publications staffs have a first-class home, because it will be a big part of their time at WKU. Also, it will help the *Herald* and *Talisman* stay current, technologically and in quality of the product, and will help with recruiting for the department and the university."

Lee ('85) and Margo Grace ('84) are both alumni of WKU's Student Publications programs, as Lee, a Journalism major, was sports editor for the *Talisman* and sports reporter for the *Herald* and Margo, a Public Relations major, served the *Talisman* as design

editor and later as co-editor. "Margo and I are grateful that the Lord has so blessed us that we can give back to the university and the department that has given us so much," Lee Grace said. "We believe our gift honors the legacy of those that preceded us and helped to create two excellent award winning publications. The Student Publications Building will give future WKU publication students an even greater advantage over their peers and will only serve to enhance both the department and the university's reputation."

Margo Grace agreed. "We wanted to give back to the people and the program that have given so much to us—friends, fellowship, and the foundation to wonderful careers," she said. "We are proud to be part of such a wonderful family."

Of the 136 individuals donations, a number of major gifts led the way. Gifts \$50,000 or more include:

Confidential
Neil Budde and Ginny Edwards
Lee W. Grace and
Margo Spagnuolo Grace
Hilliard Lyons – In honor of the
Bowling Green office reaching
the \$1 billion mark in assets
gathered
Col. and Mrs. Robert E. Spiller
Fleur and David T. Whitaker

Gifts between \$10,000 and \$49,000 include:

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Steve and Heidi Thomas
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Winter 2006

Additional information can be obtained by contacting:
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for Institutional Advancement
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Bowling Green, KY 42101-1005
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Volunteer Spotlight on John and Linda Kelly



Home:
Bowling Green, Kentucky

Family:
Two children, Victoria and Michael

WKU Volunteer Positions:

John:

College of Health and Human
Services Board of Stakeholders
Kelly Autism Program Governing
Board and Advisory Board
Past Vice Chair, Clinical Education
Committee Charter Committee

Linda:

Kelly Autism Program Advisory Board
Past Member, Kelly Autism Program
Governing Board
Clinical Education Complex Advisory
Committee

Why we are involved with WKU:

WKU was instrumental in providing
structure and resources for the devel-
opment of the Kelly Autism Program,
whose goal is to assist young people
with autism to become productive
and involved citizens of the commu-
nity, through educational support,

social programming, and job place-
ment opportunities.

Most rewarding experience with WKU:

The opportunity to have 60 young
people with autism participating in
KAP this year.

